

**Statement on Congressional
Completion of Appropriations
Legislation**

September 30, 1994

I want to thank the House and Senate leadership, Senator Byrd and Congressman Obey, the chairmen of the Appropriations Committees, and their colleagues for their leadership and assistance. And I would be remiss if I didn't say how sorry I am that Congressman Natcher could not be with us to enjoy this achievement.

We are making a start at putting our country's fiscal house in order. After years of partisan bickering, after years of rising deficits, it was time for Washington to get Federal spending under control. Our economic plan adopted by Congress last year gave us this start.

Our 5 year deficit reduction plan put into place rigid controls on Government spending. It has produced 2 years of declining deficit for the first time in 20 years. We are reducing Federal employment by 272,000 positions, placing us on a path to the smallest Federal Government since John Kennedy was President. We are making a start on running Washington the way Americans run their households at home, within budget limits, paying the bills on time.

For the first time since 1948, the Congress has adopted all 13 Appropriations for signing by the President before the end of the fiscal year, all 13 bills, on time, within the rigid spending restraints required by our economic plan.

The economic recovery gathering strength across our country is being built on this kind of progress. We have embarked on a journey to rebuild and renew the American economy. We haven't finished the job, but we are going to keep moving forward, keep cutting spending, and we're not going back.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Statement on Signing the Treasury,
Postal Service and General
Government Appropriations Act,
1995**

September 30, 1994

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4539, the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1995."

The Act provides a total of \$11.6 billion in discretionary budget authority for various programs in the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies.

I am pleased that the Act appropriates \$39 million from the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund to several Treasury agencies to fight crime and promote gang resistance programs.

The Act also provides important funding for the United States Customs Service to support the commitments made to enhance the enforcement of trade laws and regulations related to NAFTA. This initiative remains an Administration priority.

This Act funds the IRS tax compliance initiative, which is essential in ensuring that everyone pays his or her fair share of their Federal taxes. This initiative is expected to have deficit-reducing potential by strengthening audit and debt collection activities, thereby generating additional revenue without raising taxes.

Several other provisions in H.R. 4539 condition the President's authority—and the authority of certain agency officials—to use funds appropriated by this Act on the approval of congressional committees. The Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation of such provisos would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS vs. Chadha*.

Regrettably, the Congress has continued its past practice of including personnel floors and other restrictions in several of the Treasury agencies funded by the enrolled bill.

Such measures run counter to our efforts to reduce the number of Federal employees, as recommended by the National Performance Review and mandated in the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994. These restrictions would exclude over 20,000 Treasury employees from reduction, thereby imposing a greater burden on other agencies. While we have made a start on deficit reduction, we cannot fully achieve our goals without making reductions in the Federal workforce, fairly apportioned among *all* departments and agencies.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 4539, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 103-329. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1.

**Statement on Signing the
Agricultural, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 1995**

September 30, 1994

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4554, the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995."

The Act provides \$13.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs of the Department of Agriculture, including the special supplemental feeding program for women, infants, and children (WIC); food safety programs; and various programs to protect and support rural communities.

The Act also provides a total of \$39.2 billion for the Food Stamp program, the Commodity Credit Corporation, and other mandatory programs.

The Act includes authority for providing disaster assistance for losses to 1994 crops due to natural disasters. The Administration is currently reviewing estimates of the need for this assistance. I will be transmitting to the Congress requests for the release of these emergency funds in the near future.

The Act also includes the following appropriations that I hereby designate as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended:

Emergency community water assistance grants, \$10,000,000;

Very low-income housing repair grants, \$15,000,000;

Agricultural credit insurance fund program account: For the cost of emergency loans, \$7,670,000; and

Emergency conservation program: Transfer from Watershed and flood prevention operations, \$23,000,000

These funds will be used to provide needed assistance to victims of natural disasters, including flooding victims of Tropical Storm Alberto in south Alabama, south Georgia, and north Florida.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1994.

NOTE: H.R. 4554, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 103-330. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1.

**Statement on Signing the
Department of Transportation and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 1995**

September 30, 1994

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4556, the "Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995."

The Act provides funding for the Department of Transportation and several smaller agencies, including the Interstate Commerce Commission and the National Transportation Safety Board.

This Act provides funding for a number of my high-priority investment proposals within the Department of Transportation. These include the core highway programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, the Intelligent Vehicle Highway System research program, Mass Transit Formula Capital Grants, Next Generation High-